NISTTech

Time-Stamp Service for the National Information Network

Abstract

A system and method for time-stamping and signing a digital document by an authenticating party and returning the signed stamped document to the originator or his designated recipient. Messages may be received by a first "public" machine over a network, by fax, or through input mediums such as diskettes. The clock of the first machine is synchronized with Universal Coordinated Time (UTC) and can be checked for accuracy by anyone on the network. A second "private" machine, not connected to any network, receives the time-stamped message, applies a hashing procedure and provides a signature using a private key. The signed hashed time-stamped message is then returned. A verify procedure is made widely available to check the genuineness of a document by rehashing the document and applying a public key. The result should match the signed time-stamped message returned by the authenticating party.

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Related Items

- NIST Computer Time Services- ITS, ACTS, and time.gov Websites.pdf
- Article: A Notary Public for the Digital Age

References

- U.S. Patent # 6,393,566 issued 05-21-2002, expires 07/28/2015
- Docket: 95-022US

Status of Availability

This invention is available for licensing exclusively or non-exclusively in any field of use.

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